

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the objection to Claim 1 and the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112.

The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 2 and cancelled Claims 3 – 14. The Applicants have included the subject matter of Claims 3, 4, 5 and 6 and a portion of the subject matter of Claim 10 into Claim 1.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4 – 6 and 10 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘740. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1 including, among other things, the subject matter of Claim 3. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 2, 3, 7 – 9 and 11 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over JP ‘740. The Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the cancellation of Claims 3, 7 – 9 and 11 – 14, the rejection is moot with respect to those claims. Moreover, in view of the amendment of Claim 1, from which Claim 2 depends, to include the subject matter of Claim 4, among other things, the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 2, 3 and 11 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Fastenau ‘047. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to Claims 3 and 11 – 14 in view of their cancellation. With respect to Claim 2, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1 which includes, among other things, the subject matter of Claim 4. Inasmuch as Claim 2 depends from Claim 1, Fastenau ‘047 is not applicable.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1 – 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Fastenau '017. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot as it applies to Claims 3 – 14 in view of their cancellation. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Fastenau '017 for the reasons set forth below.

As noted above, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the subject matter of Claims 3, 4, 5, 6 and a portion of Claim 10. This results in a highly advantageous base fabric for non-coated airbags that is neither taught nor suggested by Fastenau '017.

The rejection acknowledges that Fastenau '017 does not disclose various previously claimed aspects with respect to Claim 4, Claim 5 and the like. However, in the rejection, it was stated that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make modifications or vary particular claimed elements to maximize the potential benefits. Each of these speculative statements was justified on the basis that these features are well known and that it would be obvious to make routine variations.

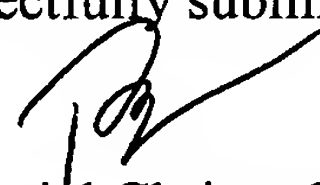
The Applicants respectfully submit that it is simply untenable to maintain the previous rejections wherein the speculative modifications to any one component might or might not be true. However, when five separate components, on top of the previous components set forth in Claim 1, are now combined together, the number of needed modifications reaches the point that the rejection cannot be sustained. Thus, the question arises as to how would it have been “obvious” to make modifications to five separate components on top of the need to have been “obvious” to make modifications to half a dozen earlier limitations, as previously contained in Claim 1? The Applicants respectfully submit that it could hardly have been obvious to make ten or more separate modifications in a way that would result in all of the claimed limitations as set forth in Claims 1 and 2. There are simply too many specific requirements in Claim 1 for one

skilled in the art to try a multiplicity of hypothetical modifications without specific teachings or suggestions in the art to do so. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 2 are now fully patentable over Fastenau '017.

The Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered into the Official File inasmuch as all of the changes to Claim 1 merely incorporate subject matter into Claim 1 that has already been under consideration in other pending claims. Moreover, the Applicants have eliminated all but two of the claims from the Application. Therefore, no new search need be made and there are no new issues under consideration. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the addition of the subject matter of at least five additional claims to ~~main~~ Claim 1, the subject matter is now in complete condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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